



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

The book abounds in similar sketches, many of them told in the language of contemporaries and giving, at a glance, a clear-cut idea of the social life of different periods. A praiseworthy innovation is the use of copious illustrations from contemporary and modern sources, which, in connection with the numerous maps and diagrams, supplement the text in a very satisfactory way. The author has considerably refrained from scientifically punishing his readers by an overuse of footnotes, although even his moderation can be accounted excess. "The Expansion of the American People" is a book which is unique of its kind and which sets a high standard for those who come after.

EDWARD SHERWOOD MEADE.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

---

*Studien zur Geschichte der Englischen Lohnarbeiter.* By GUSTAF F. STEFFEN. Erster Band, erster Teil. Pp. 176. Price, 4 mk. Stuttgart: Hobbing und Büchle, 1900.

*Die Wohnungsinspektion und ihre Ausgestaltung durch das Reich.* By HANS FREIHERRN VON DER GOLTZ. Pp. xii, 104. Price, 1.5 mk. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, 1900.

The economic history of England has been a favorite subject of investigation, almost as much so on the part of Continental writers as Englishmen themselves. The latest contribution to this subject is a two-volume work by a Swedish writer, G. F. Steffen, of which the book under review forms one-third of the first volume. A ten-years' residence in England, during which period he published three popularly written books on English conditions, constitutes the basis of the author's claim for a hearing. In the preparation of the present volume he has made liberal use of such works as Rogers, Tooke, Cunningham, Ashley and Maine, as well as the parliamentary blue-books. Mr. Steffen pays most attention to the changes which have taken place in the standard of life of the English laborers, and promises to show how these are connected with the legal and social status of the workers. More than half of the present volume is, however, devoted to a theoretical discussion of method and definition of terms. The historical part takes the reader—if he gets that far—to about the middle of the fourteenth century, and is devoted to a description of industrial conditions under feudalism. While written with the painstaking industry of a German, it is unfortunately characterized also by tiresome prolixity and a minute discussion of details that might well have been relegated to footnotes or omitted altogether. Of the present section of the work the best part is that dealing with wages

and prices, and the discussion of the purchasing power of labor during the fourteenth century. Perhaps the future portions of the work may prove more interesting, but, compared with such a work as Held's unfinished contribution to English economic and industrial history, the advance volume of Mr. Steffen's book would hardly induce perusal of the remainder.

In May, 1898, there was organized in Frankfurt a. M. a "Union for Imperial Housing Legislation," with the purpose of bettering the housing conditions of the laboring classes by means of legislation, imperial if possible. During the year following its organization the members published a program and a number of brochures, armed with which they appeared at the eleventh evangelical-social congress at Carlsruhe. Here they were urged to prepare detailed and accurate information as to the conditions and needs, and accordingly undertook the publication of a series of nine monographs on various phases of the housing problem. Of this series the first number is that on "Housing Inspection." The author, a member of the city council of Strassburg, advocates compulsory inspection under imperial law as the best solution of the problem. At present mandatory inspection exists only in Hesse and Hamburg. In Baden, Prussia, Württemberg and Saxony satisfactory laws have been enacted, but as their execution is entirely permissive they are but little enforced. Special dwelling-house inspectors are to be found only in Hamburg. Granted that further legislation compelling inspection is desirable, it can be had only in one of three ways: by imperial law, by state statute or by municipal ordinance. Of these the author does not mention the last possibility. The second he rejects as insufficient, in spite of the fact that thirty-two out of forty-three cities which answered his request for their views on this point favored state rather than imperial legislation. He then justifies at some length his position in favor of an imperial law, and sketches the main points which would have to be covered. In an appendix is given the draft of a proposed imperial bill, together with extracts from a number of existing state laws on building inspection.

The monograph, though brief and narrow in scope, is good. The author does not claim that he has indicated the final solution of the problem. His is rather the negative remedy. In addition to legislation there is needed the positive relief which can be afforded only by the construction of a sufficient number of improved houses. These are conclusions which can be applied to the United States as well as to Germany.

ERNEST L. BOGART.

*Oberlin College.*